

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3795

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TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: OIL SPILL PLAN

REF: OTTAWA 1951

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DRAFT PRESS RELEASE TO BE DISTRIBUTED
JUNE 20 BY GOC:

BEGIN QUOTE

CANADA/USA OIL SPILLS CONTINGENCY PLAN

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE
HONOURABLE MITCHELL SHARP, ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT CANADA AND
THE UNITED STATES, CULMINATING DISCUSSIONS THAT HAVE BEEN
UNDERWAY FOR SOME TIME, HAVE EXCHANGED DIPLOMATIC NOTES
CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT CANADA/UNITED STATES
MARINE CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR SPILLS OF OIL AND OTHER NOXIOUS
SUBSTANCES.

THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTES AN AGREEMENT
BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES THAT A JOINT
CANADA/UNITED STATES MARINE CONTINGENCY PLAN SHALL
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BE PROMULGATED BY THE CANADIAN MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

AND THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND SHALL BE MAINTAINED IN FORCE TO COORDINATE RESPONSES TO SIGNIFICANT POLLUTION THREATS TO WATERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. THE WATERS TO BE COVERED IN THE JOINT CONTINGENCY PLAN INCLUDE THE GREAT LAKES, AND WATERS OFF THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC COASTS. THE PLAN WILL BE APPLICABLE IN JUAN DE FUCA AND ROSARIO STRAITS AMONG OTHERS.

IT WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CANADIAN MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO ADMINISTER AND MAINTAIN THE PLAN AS PROMULGATED OR AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME. AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING THIS AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE MITCHELL SHARP ON BEHALF OF CANADA AND BY HIS EXCELLENCY WILLIAM J. PORTER, UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO CANADA, ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES.

MR. SHARP WELCOMED THE SIGNING OF THIS AGREEMENT AS A POSITIVE STEP TO ESTABLISHING COOPERATIVE ACTION TO MINIMIZE THREATS TO CANADIAN AND THE UNITED STATES WATERS AND COASTLINES POSED BY ACCIDENTAL SPILLS OF OIL AND OTHER POLLUTANTS. THE CONTINGENCY PLAN ITSELF WILL PROVIDE FOR COOPERATION WITH RESPECT TO THE USE OF EQUIPMENT AND FOR COORDINATION OF PERSONNEL IN RESPONDING TO ANY ACCIDENTS THAT MAY OCCUR IN THE WATERS AFFECTED BY THE PLAN.

THE OIL SPILLS CONTINGENCY PLAN IS TO BE SIGNED AND PROMULGATED BY THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND THE ADMINISTRATOR MARINE OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT ON THURSDAY, JUNE 20. END QUOTE.
PORTER

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